

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO PORTUGUESE COUP

REF: LISBON 1381

1. DANISH PRESS COVERED ABORTIVE COUP EXTENSIVELY, ALTHOUGH FACTUAL REPORTING BASED MAINLY ON WIRE SERVICES. ALL MAJOR PAPERS HAVE FOLLOWED UP WITH EDITORIAL COMMENTS INCLUDING A DISCUSSION OF THE ALLEGATIONS OF US COMPLICITY. ONLY THE COMMUNIST (DKP) DAILY LAND OG POLK CHOOSES TO BELIEVE CHARGES. "DESPITE TH PRIMITIVE CHARACTER OF THE COUP, US PARTICIPATION IS MORE THAN A SUSPICION", THE PAPER ARGUED, AND CONTINUED, "BUT THE AMERICAN DESIRE - FOLLOWING THE MODEL OF CHILE - TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT ON THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL HAS FAILED".

2. THE DAILY OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (WHICH BROKE FROM THE DKP IN THE LATE 50'S) MIN-AVISEN IS A LITTLE LESS ASSURED ABOUT THE US ROLE. "ALTHOUGH SUCH A ROLE CANNOT BE PRECLUDED, THE DEMAND FOR RECALL OF CARLUUCCI IS BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS ONLY." IT WOULD BE MORE THAN SURPRISING, HOWEVER, IF THE US WAS NOT INVOLVED, THE PAPER CONCLUDES.

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3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AKTUEL FINDS SPINOLA'S ACTION FOOLISH EVEN IF HE ONLY MEANT TO PREVENT THE REVOLUTION FROM GOING TOO FAR. "NOW, HE HAS TIED A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AROUND THE NECK OF THE POOR PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. THE POWER NOW RESTS WITH THE MILITARY CRUSADERS, WHO, NO MATTER HOW WELL MEANING, LACK FEELING FOR REALPOLITIK. COMMUNISTS AND LEFTWING EXTREMISTS CAN NOW CONTINUE THEIR HARASSMENT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS."

4. INDEPENDENT RADICAL DAILY POLITIKEN FINDS IT REVEALING THAT THE COUP MAKERS ACTED AT A TIME WHEN THE MODERATE FORCES WERE GAINING GROUND AND AN ELECTION GUARANTEEING A CERTAIN MEASURE OF FREEDOM WAS SCHEDULED.

5. THE LARGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, CONSERVATIVE BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, SAW THE NEWS OF THE COUP AS OMINOUS BECUASE IT WILL BE EXPLOITED TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNISTS.

6. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHEIF OF DENMARK'S RADIO NEWS, JORGEN SCHLEIMANN, IS PROBABLY THE DANISH REPORTER MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE. HE HAS REPEATEDLY BROADCAST COMMENTS DOUBTING THE BONA FIDES OF THE COUP, AND IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL PAPER HE SAID: "IT IS HIGH TIME THAT DENMARK SHOWS SOLIDARITY WITH THE PPD. I HAVE ALWAYS DEPICTED THE PS IN SYMPATHETIC TERMS, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT SOARES IS A CONFESSED MARXIST WHO HAS REJECTED THE MODELOF THE EUROPEAN LABOR PARTIES. (DANISH) FOREIGN MINISTER K. B. ANDERSEN OUGHT TO INVITE THE PPD TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TOGETHER WITH THE PS, EVEN IF THE (RULES) ARE THAT ONLY ONE SOCIAIST PARTY FROM EACH COUNTRY CAN BE A MEMBER. THIS IS NOT A TIME FOR A BRAWL BETWEEN SOCIALISTS, WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ARE WAITING IN THE WING, SCHLEIMANN CONCLUDED. DUNNIGAN

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